

AMENDMENTS TO AND LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (New) A chewable confectionery composition comprising:

- a) an enzyme selected from a carbohydrase, an enzyme extracted from natural fruit products, and a serine protease;
- b) a non-cariogenic sweetener; and
- c) an enzyme stabilizing agent which is a metal chelating agent or an antioxidation agent.

12. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein the enzyme is a carbohydrase and is present at a concentration of about 0.001 to 2% by weight.

13. (New) The composition of claim 12, wherein the enzyme is a glucoamylase and is present at a concentration of about 0.01 to 0.55% by weight.

14. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein the enzyme is an alpha-amylase, a beta-amylase, a tannase, or a lipase.

15. (New) The composition of claim 14, wherein the lipase is a plant lipase, a gastric lipase, or a pancreatic lipase.

16. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein the enzyme is papain or bromelain and is present at a concentration of about 0.1 to 3% by weight.

17. (New) The composition of claim 16, wherein the enzyme is present at a concentration of about 0.2 to about 2% by weight.

18. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein the enzyme is papain.

19. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein the enzyme is chymotrypsin.

20. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein the non-cariogenic sweetener is a sugar alcohol or an artificial sweetener.
21. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein the non-cariogenic sweetener is a polyol of 5 to 12 carbon atoms substituted with 5 to 9 hydroxyl groups.
22. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein the sugar alcohol is xylitol, sorbitol, or mannitol.
23. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein the non-cariogenic sweetener is a sugar alcohol present at a concentration of about 25% to about 95% by weight.
24. (New) The composition of claim 23, wherein the sugar alcohol is present at a concentration of about 40% to about 85% by weight.
25. (New) The composition of claim 23, wherein the sugar alcohol is a sugar alcohol of a disaccharide.
26. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein the non-cariogenic sweetener is an artificial sweetener and is present at a concentration of about 0.1 to about 1% by weight.
27. (New) The composition of claim 26, wherein the artificial sweetener is a sodium or calcium saccharin salt, a cyclamate salt, the free acid form of saccharin; a dipeptide based sweetening agent, 3,6-dihydro-6-methyl-1, or 1,2,3-oxathiazin-4-one-2,2-dioxide.
28. (New) The composition of claim 11, containing less than 5% by weight water.
29. (New) The composition of claim 28, containing less than 3% by weight water.
30. (New) The composition of claim 11 prepared by a process wherein the enzyme is

processed at a temperature less than about 80°C.

31. (New) The composition of claim 11 which is a chewing gum, or a chewable and orally soluble tablet, troche, or lozenge.

32. (New) The composition of claim 31 which is a tablet.

33. (New) The composition of claim 31 which is a chewing gum and comprises a gum base at a concentration of about 10 to about 40% by weight.

34. (New) The composition of claim 33 which comprises a gum base at a concentration of about 20 to about 35% by weight.

35. (New) The composition of claim 33, wherein the gum base is chicle, natural rubber, jelutong, balata, guttapercha, lechi caspi, sorva, guttakay, crown gum, perillo, butadiene-styrene copolymers, polyisobutylene, or isobutylene-isoprene copolymers, or mixtures thereof.

36. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein the metal chelating agent is ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid or sodium gluconate and is present at a concentration between 0.01% and 1% by weight.

37. (New) The composition of claim 36, wherein the metal chelating agent is present at a concentration between 0.1 and 0.5% by weight.

38. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein the antioxidation agent is sodium bisulfite, a metal gallate, potassium stannate, sodium stannate, ammonium sulfate, 3,5,-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxytoluene, or vitamin E.

39. (New) The composition of claim 38, wherein the antioxidation agent is potassium stannate.

40. (New) The composition of claim 38, wherein the antioxidation agent is present at a concentration between about 0.05 to about 1.5% by weight.

41. (New) The composition of claim 40, wherein the antioxidation agent is present at a concentration between about 0.1 and about 0.75% by weight.

42. (New) The composition of claim 11 further comprising a plasticizing/softening agent which is gelatin, wax, propylene glycol, glycerol, acetylated monoglyceride, glyceryl triacetate, glyceryl diacetate, lecithin, or glycerin, and mixtures thereof.

43. (New) The composition of claim 42, comprising a combination of lecithin and glycerin in amounts of about 0.5% to about 3.0% by weight lecithin and about 0.1 to about 1.0% by weight glycerin.

44. (New) The composition of claim 11 further comprising calcium salts at a concentration of about 5 to about 20% by weight.

45. (New) The composition of claim 44, wherein the salt is calcium chloride, calcium nitrate, calcium sulfate, dicalcium phosphate dihydrate, calcium carbonate, calcium citrate, calcium hydrogen pyrophosphate, calcium gluconate, calcium glycerophosphate, calcium hydroxide, calcium oxide, or calcium silicate.

46. (New) The composition of claim 11 comprising about 0.1 to 3% by weight of an enzyme, 0.5 to 5% by weight of a combination plasticizing/softening ingredient, and about 50 to about 90% by weight of a non-cariogenic sweetener, and, optionally, 10 to 40% by weight of a gum base.